Since 1968, I have been a successful, award-winning broadcaster. Since the mid-80s, radio broadcasting has taken a back seat to King Cash. It used to be "service to our communities." Today, it's the "multiple" of cash flow so a privileged few fat cats can "spin" the radio stations for obscene profits...nevermind the lives that are ruined in each market they enter.

In the wake of these sales actions, and that's all there is to broadcasting any more...are good people, out of work or working telemarketing jobs...good people whose only sin was loyalty to ethics and the community.

Today, I am listening to XM Satellite Radio.

No obnoxious commercials.

No stupid disc jockeys titillating for ratings.

No phoney contests designed to hypo ratings to charge higher prices for commercials to satisfy "debt service" until we can "GIN IT UP" AND SPIN THE PROPERTY to the next sucker.

Wake up, FCC.

Deregulation is killing the industry. Watch the slow death. Mom and Pop are gone, syndication has taken the place of "dog bites man," and now those poor slobs -- some who own thousands of stations -- are worried about somebody ACTUALLY COVERING traffic, as opposed to some wanna-be, radio station reject sitting in a skyscraper reading State Department of Transportation statistics...ALL inside the nice neat 30-second package?

Do we look that stupid?

Give us credit out here, FCC.

These guys are in it for themselves and could give a rats ass about actually doing "traffic," let alone a community service. Government should not protect the incompetent, uncaring coverage...the perveyors of stress, controversy and ever more packed hours of "breaks."

XM satellite is the coming thing. A few million of us can't be wrong.

In fact, millions more...such as the three people I recommended today...will be subscribing to avoid the cesspool of broadcasting that your deregulation sloppiness has allowed.

Talk to the real broadcasters.

That would be nobody in the "art" today.

Deny, deny, deny.

Let 'em swim to their own grave under their own power.

Larry Leafblad, consumer of radio since 1952 Grayslake Illinois Elected County Official, Lake County, Illinois National Award Winning Commercial producer Top Sales Management in Radio, 1986-1994